

## Message Text

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11

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FTC-01 JUSE-00 CU-02 /052 W

----- 061547

R 161910Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7799

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1193

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECLA, PINT, XM, XL, TD

SUBJ: TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AT ECLA

REF: POS 1180

SUMMARY: THE JUST ENDED ECLA CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD WAS A SUCCESSFUL FORAY INTO THE MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE AREA FOR THE GOTT AND ESPECIALLY PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS. ALTHOUGH LACKING THE ECONOMIC POWER OR SIZE OF EITHER ITS NORTHERN OR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS, THE GOTT USED ITS POSITION AS HOST TO PUSH TWO MAJOR RESOLUTIONS SUCCESSFULLY THROUGH THE CONFERENCE AND THE OCCASIONS OF THE OPENING AND CLOSING SPEECHES, WHICH WERE MADE BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE PRIME MINISTER, TO DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE PUBLIC TO ISSUES OF CONCERN TO TRINIDAD. THESE SUBSTANTIVE SUCCESSES, COUPLED WITH EFFECTIVE MANNER IN WHICH THE GOTT MADE THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE, MADE THE EVENT A VERY SATISFACTORY UNDERTAKING FOR THE GOTT. END SUMMARY.

1. TRINIDAD MADE TWO MAJOR PROPOSALS TO THE CONFERENCE-

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A RECOMMENDATION THAT THE UN COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL

CORPORATIONS (TNC) ESTABLISH A REGIONAL UNIT IN LATIN AMERICA FOR THE SURVEILLANCE OF TNC'S IN THE REGION, AND THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE ECLA CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERED IN PORT OF SPAIN- WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF THE U.S. A THIRD RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE UN UNIVERSITY TO EXPAND ITS ROLE IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY WAS ALSO ADOPTED BY A CONFERENCE WHICH DID NOT WISH TO OFFEND ITS HOST. THIS WAS RELATED TO WILLIAMS' POSITION ON THE UNIVERSITY'S COUNCIL. IN ADDITION, THE GOTU USED THE CONFERENCE TO VOICE ITS COMPLAINT THAT IT WAS BEING TREATED UNFAIRLY AS A "RICH NATION" BY INTERNATIONAL LENDING AGENCIES, DESPITE ITS COMPARATIVELY SMALL PETROLEUM RESOURCES.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S INTERESTS IN MAKING THESE PROPOSALS- TO DEMONSTRATE CONCERN WITH THE TNC ACTIVITIES AND THEREBY STEAL THE "MULTINATIONALS" ISSUE FROM HIS RADICAL OPPONENTS AND CRITICS AND TO ENHANCE HIS REPUTATION AS A LEADING CARIBBEAN STATESMAN-WERE AMPLY SERVED BY THE FULL PRESS COVERAGE GIVEN TO THE TRINIDADIAN PROPOSALS AND BY THEIR ACCEPTANCE BY THE CONFERENCE. VIEWED SOLELY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF DOMESTIC POLITICS, WILLIAMS' PERFORMANCE AND THE STAGING OF THE ECLA CONFERENCE IN TRINIDAD MUST BE VIEWED AS A DISTINCT PLUS FOR A POLITICIAN WHOSE LUSTRE HAD BEGUN TO DIM. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH HIS TWO TRIPS TO CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE UNITED STATES, INCLUDING HIS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT FORD AND CHAIRMAN MAO AND HIS FORTHCOMING VISITS TO THE USSR AND CUBA, WILLIAMS' IMAGE WITHIN TRINIDAD AS A SERIOUS STATESMAN WHO IS SO REGARDED BY THE MAJOR POWERS HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY BRIGHTENED. THIS BUILD-UP WILL SERVE HIM WELL AT ELECTION TIME WHEN HE IS EXPECTED TO LEAD HIS PARTY AGAINST A NUMBER OF OPPONENTS WHOSE CREDENTIALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL AREA ARE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 POS 1180  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRINIDAD & TOBAGO AT ECLA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PORG, XM, XL, TD, ECLA, (WILLIAMS, ERIC)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006